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THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

THE WEATHER
Fair

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OMAHA, MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 1, 1915

On Trains and at Hotel News Stands, 5c SINGLE COPY TWO CENTS.

RAIN AND SLEET SHUT OMAHA OFF FROM THE WORLD

Wires on All Sides Are Broken by the Weight of the Ice—Bad Storm to the West.

RAILROADS HAVE TROUBLES

Trains Are Operated by the Block System as Their Telegraph Wires Are Also Down.

WALKS ARE ONE GLARE OF ICE

Omaha and surrounding territory was practically cut off from communication with the outside world for several hours after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, the consequence of rain and sleet freezing on telegraph and telephone wires.

The Western Union had no wires west at all until nearly 8 o'clock, and could get word from Chicago only by relaying messages over a circuitous route. The Associated Press and railroads were practically in the same condition.

The trouble zone, as far as could be ascertained, extended for about sixty-five miles on all sides of Omaha.

The rain of Saturday and moisture in the air of Sunday, freezing on the wires, pulled them down by sheer force of weight.

Uncle Sam Hears Nothing.

The weather bureau could get no report as to the extent of the storm.

Union Pacific wires to the west all went down at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, so that Omaha could get no information from any point west of North Bend.

A traveling man who came into North Bend reported that the storm was raging around Grand Island so fiercely that it was impossible to see across the street.

The Union Pacific kept its trains stopping, although it was impossible to make time because the wires were down and the trainmen had to rely entirely on the block signal system.

From the Burlington reports it was evident that the storm was much worse in the northern part of the state than in the southern, as the line to Denver was kept open. The worst Burlington trouble was to the northwest, and officials were not able to hear from any point beyond Alliance. It was sleeting hard at Ravenna.

In Omaha pedestrians experienced trouble in getting about on slippery pavements and walks. The frozen moisture gave the walks a veneer of ice that made travel an exceedingly ticklish as well as a dangerous proposition.

Tells What Belgian Notes Legal Tender

AMSTERDAM (via London), Jan. 31.—The German military governor of Belgium, General von Bissing, has issued a proclamation in which he defines what Belgian bank notes are legal tender. He approves the issues by the Societe Generale, by the Banque Nationale prior to November and by certain Belgian banks which have been organized by the German committee.

"This proclamation," General von Bissing says, "annuls the decision of the Belgian king of August 20, and the above notes are valid until three months after the conclusion of peace."

JAPANESE DON'T WANT ANYTHING FROM CHINA

PEKING, Jan. 31.—The Japanese minister of China, M. Hoki, was questioned today concerning the political demands made by Japan upon China following the occupation by Japanese troops of the Kiao Chow territory, demands which are now under discussion between the two countries.

He denied that Japan had demanded the cession of any territory of China. He explained that his government was pledged by its alliance with Great Britain to maintain the territorial integrity of China and he said further that the demands made by Japan did not interfere in any way with the rights enjoyed by other nations.

LOCAL TALENT TO STAGE YIDDISH BENEFIT PLAY

A performance in Yiddish will be presented at the Grand Opera house about the middle of February, for the benefit of Jewish sufferers from the war, according to announcement made public yesterday by Arthur Marowitz, secretary of the Jewish relief committee here. Local talent, which presented the same before a small audience several weeks ago, surprised their friends with the excellence of their dramatic ability.

Several prominent business men are lending their efforts to the project.

The Weather

For Nebraska and Iowa—Probably fair. Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Hour	Temp.
8 A. M.	32
9 A. M.	32
10 A. M.	32
11 A. M.	32
12 M.	32
1 P. M.	32
2 P. M.	32
3 P. M.	32
4 P. M.	32
5 P. M.	32
6 P. M.	32
7 P. M.	32
8 P. M.	32
9 P. M.	32
10 P. M.	32
11 P. M.	32
12 M.	32

Comparative Local Record.

Year	Highest	Lowest
1915	32	24
1914	32	24
1913	32	24
1912	32	24
1911	32	24
1910	32	24
1909	32	24
1908	32	24
1907	32	24
1906	32	24
1905	32	24
1904	32	24
1903	32	24
1902	32	24
1901	32	24
1900	32	24

Normal temperature 32 degrees. Excess for the day 0. Normal precipitation 45.1 inches. Total excess since March 1.1 inches. Total rainfall since March 1.1 inches. Deficiency since March 1.1 inches. Deficiency for year, period, 1915, 1.4 inches. Deficiency for cor. period, 1915, 1.4 inches.

FADING BERTHA SWALLOWS POISON

After Being Saved by Police Surgeons She Sets Her Clothing on Fire at the City Jail.

HELD FOR PURSE SNATCHING

"Fading Bertha" Liebecke twice attempted suicide in a cell at the city jail Sunday. In the morning she swallowed ten 1.0 grain tablets of strychnine, but was saved by the prompt application of a stomach pump.

In the afternoon she set her clothing on fire and was badly burned, about the time before the flames were extinguished.

Bertha was arrested Saturday night for snatching a purse containing \$1.45 from Mrs. Gus Long, 2611 Monroe street, South Omaha, as the latter was shopping in Omaha.

All night Bertha kept the prisoners awake with her hysterical demonstrations. At 9 o'clock she became suddenly quiet, and a few moments later Turnkey Brady was summoned to the cell by a colored woman, who saw her swallow the contents of a small pasteboard box. Dr. J. A. Tamisieka was sent for and the stomach pump immediately applied. Strychnine in a considerable quantity was discovered, while Bertha herself declared she had taken the amount above mentioned.

Writes Farewell Note.

A note, inscribed "Fading Bertha," addressed to her sister, Mrs. Anna Adherman, 404 Redman avenue, was picked up by Tamisieka and turned over to the police. Its contents was as follows:

"Dearest Sister Anna—I have ended it all, as I have told you I would. Kiss the children goodbye and ask my precious mamma to forgive me. In my package here I have \$7 and my watch, which I bought at Ryan's jewelry store, don't want to be buried, so sell my body to the Creighton Medical College. Farewell, dear mamma, sisters and brothers, and forgive me, all of you."

After bringing out of danger and to a state somewhere near the normal, she was again taken to her cell on her promise to do herself no further harm.

In the early hours of the afternoon she once again became hysterical, and about 3 o'clock Brady was called to find the woman's clothing ablaze. Her limbs were badly scorched and blistered.

Following this episode she was taken to the matron's department, but to her and a guard stationed nearby, to see that she did no further damage to herself.

Rev. C. W. Savidge, when told of the affair, declared that since she had forsaken God the last time she had fallen more deeply than ever into the ways of evil.

"I will not attempt to aid her again, as I consider her case hopeless," he declared. Bertha early in the morning, when asked if she wanted to see Rev. Mr. Savidge, replied very emphatically that she did not. The police are at a loss what to do with her.

Aftermath of Big Bank Suspension

UNIONTOWN, Pa., Jan. 31.—Following the closing twelve days ago of the First National bank of Uniontown by its directors the county court judges have appointed receivers for J. V. Thompson, widely-known coal land operator and president of the bank, and eleven other coal land dealers, all residents of Fayette county. The assets of these twelve men total \$5,125,000, while their liabilities, according to the court records, are \$12,144,775, approximately one-third of which is unsecured.

The receivers for J. V. Thompson have \$21,000,000 worth of assets and \$7,000,000 of liabilities. Among the others, whose assets reach more than \$1,000,000, are I. W. Stearns, Jasper Augustine, Fuller Hogsett and W. M. Thompson. All have been active associates of J. V. Thompson in his purchasing and sale of coal and coal lands in this and adjoining counties.

AUSTRIANS CONTINUE CLEARING OPERATIONS

BERLIN, Jan. 31.—(By Wireless to Sayville.)—Vienna advises that the Austrians are continuing their clearing operations in the Carpathian mountains, where the Russians are expected to be retreating at many points in confusion. No battles of importance are reported from the Caucasus.

The weather in both the western and eastern arenas of the war continues wintry. Even in northern France and in Flanders the temperature is below the freezing point, while in the Argonne forest, where there have been heavy falls of snow, the temperature is 14 degrees above zero.

AUSTRIANS WIN FIGHTS IN MOUNTAIN SNOWS

VIENNA (via London), Jan. 31.—An official statement issued here today says: "On the Polish-Galician front general quiet prevails except for some brief artillery duels."

The result of recent vigorous but quiet operations, except for some brief respite of the passes. In severe actions lasting a week, the Austrian troops, despite unfavorable weather conditions, fought with the greatest perseverance and stubbornness. Although often fighting in deep snow, they have won great successes and we have captured a total of 10,000 prisoners and six machine guns."

NOT GUILTY IS VERDICT IN CASE OF DETECTIVES

ATANTA, Ga., Jan. 31.—A verdict of not guilty was returned by a jury here today in the case of Dan S. Lehon, C. C. Tedder and Arthur Thurman, charged with subornation of perjury in connection with the Leo M. Frank case. Lehon is southern manager of the Bureau of Detectives. Tedder formerly was employed by the agency and Thurman is a lawyer.

"NOTHING TO REPORT" IS FRENCH BULLETIN

PARIS, Jan. 31.—The following official bulletin was issued tonight: "There is nothing new to report."

STRANGE SIGN erected at Southgate, England, on some building lots offering inducements of bomb-proof cellars against German raids

The sign reads: "SPECIAL NOTICE. The SOUTHGATE COUNCIL has chased the adjoining LAND, TO LAY OUT AS RECREATION GARDEN GROUND. BERTIE'S, GOOD GRAVEL, SUB-SOIL OFFICE, No. 2. Lodge Drive, Palmers Green, N. 15. Specially constructed BOMB PROOF CELLARS."

Work Damage in Sectors of Arras, Roye, Soissons, Rheims and Perthes.

FRENCH ARTILLERY SCORES ADVANTAGE

PARIS, Jan. 31.—The French war office this afternoon issued the following statement of the progress of the war: "The struggle during the day of the 30th was confined on almost every front to artillery combats. The cannonading was very intense on one side or the other at numerous points. Our artillery has everywhere secured the advantage."

"Before La Bassée, the British army retook all the trenches which it momentarily lost. The Germans have cannonaded the belfry and church of Fonquevillers (to the south of Arras)."

"In the sectors of Arras, Roye, Soissons, Rheims and Perthes, our batteries have destroyed two of the enemy's platoons, several field works, a certain number of lance bombs and dispersed several concentrations of troops, bivouacs and convoys."

"In the Argonne, in the woods of La Grurie, where our troops were obliged on the 29th to retreat slightly as already reported, the Germans yesterday delivered near Fontaine Madame three new attacks which were repulsed."

"From the Argonne to the Vosges, there has been no change. We hold, notably near Badonviller, the village of Angenot, which the Germans pretended to have occupied."

Germans Take Trenches.

BERLIN, Jan. 31.—(By Wireless Telegraphy to Sayville, N. Y.)—The following statement was issued today at army headquarters: "In Flanders yesterday there were artillery duels only."

"At Guinchy, south of the high road between La Bassée and Bethune and near Carency, northwest of Arras, the Germans took some French trenches."

"On the East Prussian frontier, there were no events of importance."

"In Poland, near Borzow, to the east of Lodz, a Russian attack was repulsed."

Champ Clark Wants Wealth Distributed

CHICAGO, Jan. 31.—The phenomenal growth of the United States is the theme of an address given here last night by Champ Clark, speaker of the house of representatives at a banquet of the Chicago Dental society. He said: "In 13 years our total wealth multiplied 125 fold and is now rated at the enormous sum of \$140,000,000,000, which, if equally distributed, would give \$1,312 to every man, woman and child between the two oceans."

"But there is the rub, for while a few are rich beyond the dream of avarice, many have not the wherewithal to feed and clothe themselves."

"I am firm to believe the crowning glory of the twentieth century will be a scheme whereby every man and every woman, too, shall enjoy the usufruct of his own labor and to prevent one greedy soul from monopolizing the toil and sweat and lives of the thousands."

Jury Urges Illinois Parole Law Repealed

CHICAGO, Jan. 31.—The Cook county grand jury recommended today that the Illinois parole law be repealed. Its report recited that the jurors, from their experience during their service for the county, were of the opinion that a majority of the crimes were committed by former convicts.

VALENTINE INVITATIONS TO TURNER GIRLS' DANCE

Dainty Valentine invitations have been issued by the Turner Girls' society for their annual Valentine dancing party, to be held next Saturday evening at Turner hall. A committee, including the Misses Rose Hudecek, Maryne Klement and several other young women, has been busy for some time, planning and making elaborate decorations for the hall and arranging for the affair, which is always one of the big social events of the year in their large circle of friends.

BEAR FIGHTS ON LINE OF OVER 15 HUNDRED MILES

Muscovite Millions Battle Against Foes from Tilsit, in East Prussia, to Tabriz, in Persia.

PETROGRAD IS FULL OF HOPE

All Going Well with Immense Armies of Czar, According to His Chiefs.

DEADLOCK IN WESTERN EUROPE

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The end of the sixth month of Europe's great war finds the armies of the belligerent nations completing preparations for a new series of operations or actually engaged in campaigns the extent of which hardly was anticipated when the declarations of hostilities were made.

In Flanders, France and central Poland a deadlock still exists, but largely because of Russia's tremendous resources and the action of Turkey the sphere of operations have been widely extended.

Russia alone is engaged in fighting hostile armies from Tilsit, far in the north of East Prussia, to Tabriz, in Persia, a distance of over 1,500 miles. Only that portion of its territory bordering on Roumania is free from menace, but according to Petrograd reports, all is going well with its immense armies. The Russian outflanking movement in northern East Prussia is said to be gaining momentum.

Cut German Railway.

The Germans on each side of Tilsit have cut the German railway between that city and Memel on the Baltic.

On the southern front in East Prussia another army is advancing toward the German fortress of Thorn, while still another is holding a line of entrenchments which protect Warsaw and which General von Hindenburg has been trying to batter through for three months. Other armies are again preparing to meet a big Austro-German force which is attempting to regain Galicia and Bukovina, thereby turning Grand Duke Nicholas' left wing.

To the eastward the Muscovite troops are battling against the Turks in the Caucasus and Persia. They apparently have inflicted another defeat on the Turkish forces, for the Russian official report says their opponents are retreating to Tabriz, while unofficial dispatches state that the Russians have occupied that city.

Carpathian Operations.

What is regarded as the most important campaign, however, is that which is developing in the Carpathians, brought about by the Austro-German offensive, designed to drive the Russians from Galicia and Bukovina, thereby removing the menace of an invasion of Hungary.

The Austro-German allies are said to have concentrated no less than twenty-eight army corps for this venture. So far as can be gathered from contradictory reports, the Russians have won preliminary successes in the western passes from Dukla to Wiszow, while to the east they have been forced to retire before superior forces. The battles which are being fought in the snow are just commencing, however, and many days must pass before a definite decision is reached.

Battles in the west still consist of local engagements, although the Germans, who apparently are preparing for an extensive offensive before the allies get their full strength into the field, occasionally deliver rather more serious attacks.

Guinchy Attacked.

These are scattered all along the front from the sea to the Swiss frontier, but always come back to that portion of the line which lies between the British and the French coast towns, Guinchy, for example, which the British now hold after driving back the Germans, who captured it on Monday, was attacked again yesterday and according to a British report the Germans were repulsed leaving 300 dead in front of the trenches.

The Argonne, too, has been the scene of another attack and in this case, according to a German report, success fell to Emperor William's forces, who claim to have taken over 700 prisoners and counted between 400 and 500 dead.

There has been more outpost fighting in the vicinity of the Suez canal, but the latest reports say the Turks are withdrawing their advance posts. There still is some doubt whether they have definitely committed themselves to march they must make across the desert to invade Egypt.

Relief Commission For Belgium Would Buy Wilhelmina Load

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The commission for the relief of Belgium announced tonight it had made an offer for the cargo to the American steamer Wilhelmina, which sailed from New York for Hamburg, January 22, with food supplies for Germany.

The commission has an arrangement with various governments which enables it to take charge of any ship at any stage of its voyage and to give it safe conduct to Rotterdam. The members of the commission hope that the offer will be accepted as the Wilhelmina's cargo would tide over what promises to be a serious shortage of the commission's ordinary influx of supplies.

The Wilhelmina carries 2,000 tons of flour and general food products, valued by the owners at \$300,000. They are intended for the consumption of civilians in Germany.

The steamship was chartered from the Southern Products Trading company of New York, by the W. T. Green Commission company of St. Louis, and the cargo is consigned to the firm's branch office in Hamburg. The British government, it is understood, was not consulted with regard to the voyage of the Wilhelmina, and it is generally believed in shipping circles that the vessel will be seized by British warships before it reaches a German port.

TENNESSEE BRINGS 1,000 REFUGEES FROM JAFFA

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—The cruiser Tennessee arrived at Alexandria, Egypt, today with 1,000 refugees from Jaffa on the Syrian coast and reported to the Navy department. The cruiser North Carolina remained at Beirut to guard American interests there.

GERMANS DEMAND U. S. KEEP NEUTRAL

Great Meeting in Washington Declares Against "Subservience to Foreign Powers."

LOBECK IS AMONG SPEAKERS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Citizens from nearly every section of the country, some representing German-American societies, churches of different denominations or other organizations and others acting individually, held a conference last night and resolved to form a national organization to "re-establish genuine American neutrality and to uphold it free from commercial, financial and political subservience to foreign powers."

The Speakers.

Representative Barthold of Missouri, who presided at the conference, was chosen to head the organization committee, and Horace L. Brand of Chicago, was elected secretary.

Speakers included: Dr. C. J. Hexamer, president of the German-American National alliance; Rev. Thomas C. Hall, of the Union Theological Seminary, New York; Dr. Kurt H. Richter, of the German Historical society; Prof. William R. Sheppard of Columbia university; Prof. James T. Hatfield of Chicago; Prof. A. B. Faust of Cornell; Rev. G. C. Berkmyer, of the Evangelical Lutheran church of North America; Joseph Frey, resident of the German Roman Catholic central union; Dr. Edmund von Mach of Harvard, and representatives Porter and Barthelet of Pennsylvania and Lobbeck of Nebraska.

The Resolutions.

Resolutions adopted by the conference declared in favor of: "An American cable controlled by the United States government, to assure possession of an independent news service; a free and open sea for American commerce and unrestricted traffic in non-combustible goods; immediate enactment of legislation (as a strictly American policy), prohibiting the export of munitions of war; establishment of an American merchant marine."

"We pledge ourselves individually and collectively to support only such persons, irrespective of party, who will place American interests above those of any other country, and those who will aid in eliminating all foreign influence from American life."

Socialists and Jews Feel Heavy Hand of Russian Autocracy

BERLIN, Jan. 31.—(By Wireless to Sayville, L. I.)—The Overseas News agency today gave out the following statement: "The Vossische Zeitung publishes a dispatch from Copenhagen, saying that there has been received at that city a communication from socialist members of the Russian duma, who were in attendance at the socialist congress recently held there."

"The authors of this communication were unable to attend the congress, because they were arrested by the Russian police."

"Their report states that at the beginning of the war, wholesale arrests were made of socialist leaders in Russia, and that later all socialist organizations were suppressed by the police. The government later altered the report of the sessions of the duma so as to conceal the protest of the socialist party against additional war credits."

"The Russian government is now seeking to re-establish the autocracy as it existed before the granting of the constitution. Jews are being proscribed officially and demonstrations against them are being organized by the government. Secret organizations are being formed."

Three Ships Lost

PARIS, Jan. 31.—Two British vessels were torpedoed by a German submarine in addition to the Ben Cruachen and the Linda Blanche, whose sinking was reported last night. This was made known in the following statement given out by the ministry of marine: "The British steamer Tokomaru has been sunk by a torpedo from a German submarine. The English vessel Icaria also was torpedoed in the same locality in the Irish sea in which the English steamers Linda Blanche and Ben Cruachen were torpedoed."

"Hitherto the Germans before attacking a merchant vessel always allowed the crews sufficient time to embark in the ship's boats. That custom has now been abandoned as is shown by the bombardment of the Admiral Gantheume, which was filled with Belgian women and children refugees. The German marine has decided to violate systematically international law."

Russians Repulse German Attacks in Eastern Prussia

PETROGRAD, Jan. 31.—The Russian general staff today gave out the following statement: "In the region of the forests north of Pilsallen and Gumbinnen East Prussia, the battles continue. Here in the region of the village of Lebeleben, we repulsed the Germans by a counter attack with bayonets."

"On the left bank of the Vistula, at the approaches to Borzow, the Germans during the night of January 29 and the next day, repeated their attacks upon our positions, but were everywhere thrown back with great losses except at one trench which remained in the hands of the enemy. In the region of the village of Jidomitz, two German attempts to take the offensive during the day of the 29th failed."

"On the Carpathian front, in the passes of Dukla and Vyszkow, the fighting is gradually assuming the character of a general battle. In this region, the Austrians having concentrated contingents from some of their adjoining sectors and from other fronts, have attempted to deliver an offensive through the valley of the lower San and the roads leading across the passes to Samber and Stry."

Criminals Must Not Be Coddled, He Says

CHICAGO, Jan. 31.—"Criminals should not be coddled; reform work to be effective, must be stern, maulers should be allowed to feel that scorn is felt by others toward their conduct," Dr. Charles R. Henderson, professor of sociology in the University of Chicago, asserted today in an address before the Young Men's Associated Jewish Charities.

"If we look upon the criminal as having a disease we do him the worst possible service," he said.

"If I show the criminal that I hate and detest his conduct I have more hope of reforming him. We should not coddle nor protect him, but should let him know that because of his conduct he has been placed in prison to protect society. Reform work in stern, austere, rigorous work."

Dr. Henderson said he was opposed to short sentences for confirmed offenders.

THREATENED RAID ON BRITISH TRADE IS ON; 3 SHIPS GO

English in Terror as They See Von Tirpitz' Menace Fulfilled in Blow at Sea Empire.

TEUTON SUBMARINE 21 STRIKES

Two Merchant Vessels at Least and Probably Third Torpedoed Off Fleetwood.

IMMENSE SENSATION REIGNS

The Day's War News

GERMAN SUBMARINE sinks three British vessels off Fleetwood and British believe this is beginning of German plan to carry out threat to torpedo all ships under British flag wherever found.

NATIONS' WAR has now lasted six months without either side having won material advantage. As seventh month of struggle begins new armies are being organized and new campaigns mapped out.

PARIS CLAIMS that the Germans left "a great number of dead" on the field to the north of Lom-baerz and also before the English lines near La Bassée.

"SLIGHT" WITHDRAWAL of the French troops in the Argonne is admitted by Paris.

OFFICIAL BRITISH statement declares a German attack near Guinchy was easily repulsed.

VIENNA ASSERTS Austrians have scored important success in the snow-filled passes of the Carpathians.

Another daring raid on British commerce has been carried out successfully by a German warship. This exploit was accomplished by a submarine which sunk at least two steamers off the west coast of England not far from Liverpool.

England now believes that Germany has decided to make good the threat of Admiral von Tirpitz that submarines might be used to sink merchant vessels flying the British flag. The attack by the submarine far from its base and only a short distance off the coast has caused a sensation in shipping circles because of the fact that steamers have already been sunk off the French and Belgian coasts.

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